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## MEMORANDUM

TO: Educators, Principals and Curriculum Coordinators  
FROM: Peter Drescher, Education Technology Coordinator  
SUBJECT: Invitation to Contribute to Vermont's #GoOpen Initiative  
DATE: April 25, 2016

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The Vermont Agency of Education is seeking up to 30 educators to serve as Open Education Resources (OER) Ambassadors and help to spread the word and develop professional learning opportunities around Open Education Resources in the State of Vermont. These Ambassadors will be asked to be part of a two year commitment to provide leadership and guidance in their regions of the state around the development, cataloging and acquisition of Open Education Resources. More importantly, they will be asked to attend a mandatory rollout meeting on May 25, 2016 in Berlin, VT.

OER, or openly licensed educational resources, are learning materials that can be used for teaching, learning, and assessment without cost and can be modified and redistributed without violating copyright laws. A system built around this type of resource provides an across-the-board equitable environment for all schools to be able to access high-quality teaching and learning materials.

In February, the Vermont Agency of Education joined nine other states in signing on to a national initiative called [#GoOpen](#), started by the US Department of Education's Office of Education Technology. To that end, Vermont is partnering with Amazon on their new Inspire platform to help house and catalog Vermont Open Education Resources. Besides providing a Vermont section within this platform, Vermont educators can also access a wealth of openly-licensed digital learning resources.

The #GoOpen Vermont initiative will kick off on May 25, spring boarding off the Dynamic Landscapes conference on May 23 and 24. This event will be held at the Comfort Inn in Berlin, Vermont. We are fortunate to be able to keep some of the national presenters from Dynamic Landscapes (May 23 and 24) on hand on the 25 to provide more in depth professional development in the OER space.

We are seeking educators from a variety of subject areas that can act as ambassadors to their region and promote OER, organize events in conjunction with the Agency of Education, and generally act as the "go-to" individuals for their schools within their region. We would encourage pairs of individuals from regions if that works best to orchestrate some of this work.

Vermont OER Ambassadors will be selected based on regional criteria, hoping to populate each corner of the State with OER, and the Ambassadors will:

Be expected to attend the following:

- May 25<sup>th</sup> rollout conference;
- 2 day-long summer 2016 training/collaboration events (dates TBD on May 25) to begin working with and creating OER resources and templates (attend at least one);
- Occasional conference calls with the state network of Ambassadors to plan and discuss progress and status;
- Vita Learn Regional meetings over the course of the school year to share successes and continue promoting the development of OER for all (these may be opportunities for more focused professional development); and
- Occasional national phone calls with #GoOpen to share some of the successes in VT.

Ambassadors will receive:

- Professional development around Open Education Resources including training in Creative Commons licensing and meta-tagging;
- Training around the use of the Amazon Inspire tool; and
- Other professional development opportunities related to OER, PLP's and Proficiency Based Learning.

Ambassadors will be expected to provide:

- Ongoing in-person and online support and PD to their region around OER;
- Discussion and commitment from regional SU's and schools around commitment to #GoOpen;
- Positioning regionally of OER as a way to support PLP's and Proficiency Based Learning;
- Support at state conferences for sharing around OER and its place in VT schools; and
- Social media outreach on a regular basis about events, exemplar uses of OER and other success stories.

To be considered as an Ambassador, please complete the [application](#) and mark calendars for May 25, at the Comfort Inn in Berlin VT. Details will follow when the Ambassador group has been selected.

Thanks for your interest. You will be hearing from us soon.